set up a National Institute of Science, Education & Research (NISER) apart from setting up of five Indian Institutes of Science, Education & Research (IISERs) by the Government at Pune, Mohali, Kolkata, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram to ensure steady flow of young talent for carrying out R and D.

The Government is cognisant of this situation and has also taken various other measures to attract the Rand D personnel. These measures include:

- Induction of new and attractive fellowships;
- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities, academic Institutions and laboratories;
- Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled aborad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S and T;
- First Track Scheme for Young Scientists;
- Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology;
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take u R **and** D as a career;
- Scientists are given financial assistance to participate in international conferences and training programmes abroad;
- Attractive incentives to the scientists including higher salaries with two addition increments and professional update allowance in the Fifth Pay Commission.

Import of Raw Silk from China

3226.SHRI B.K. HAR1PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to a gap in demand and supply of silk, the Government is permitting import of raw silk China to the tune of 10,000 tonnes a year;

(b) whether the landed price of Chinese silk is lower than the domestic price of silk; and

(c) apart from levying anti-dumping duty on Chinese imports into India what other measures Government plans to take to augment the production of mulberry and vanya silk varieties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir. There is a demand and supply gap of about 7000 M. tonnes of silk. This additional requirement has been met by the import of raw silk mostly from China which is mainly utilized in powerlooms, export oriented units and as warp for handloom fabrics.

(b)Yes Sir. The landed price (CIF prices) of Chinese silk is lower than the domestic prices (Filature/CB) per Kg. of raw silk.

(c) Apart from levying anti-dumping duty on Chinese imports into India, the Government of India has initiated many programmes to produce quality raw silk *viz.* implementation of Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) for popularization of improved technologies evolved by Research Institutes to enhance the production of raw silk through vertical and horizontal expansion of sericulture especially mulbery bio-voltine silk and vanya silk

besides creating greater opportunities for gainful employment in rural and backward areas especially women and to improve productivity and quality at all level of production processes starting from leaf production to fabrics, evolving new Bivoltine Breeds with assistance from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), development of New varieties of mulberry plants with higher yields, development of improved devices, new machines & equipments for improving silk quality and productivity, trade necessary efforts to import and popularize the Automatic Silk Reeling Machines for improvement of the quality of silk yarn, introduction of motorized silk reeling/spinning machines & setting up of common facility centers, establishment of Silk Conditioning and Testing Houses etc.

In addition to these, a separate Project "Quality Certification System for Silk" to ensure quality maintenance at different level of production process (silkworm seed, cocoon and raw Silk production) for production of quality silk of international standard to compete in Global Markets has been made. As a part of this project, a scheme "Silk Mark" is launched through the Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI) under Central Silk Board for the products made from pure natural silk and guarantees the purity of silk products. It also plays an important role in brand promotion of Indian silk in deomestic and Export markets. Improving Research and Development and the effective transfer of technology at all staged, encouraging clustering of activities of reeling & weaving and strengthening of linkages between the producers and industry and making amendment to the Central Silk Board Act [CSB (Amendment) Act 2006] to bring in quality norms in silkworm seed production to ensure improvement in silk productivity and quality are some other important measures taken by the Government of India.

Guaranteed employment to the weavers

3227. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to implement the proposal of linking guaranteed employment to the weavers for a certain number of days in the existing policy framwork so as to meet the genuine employment demands of the weavers from rural areas.

(b) if so, how many weavers from Andhra Pradesh are expected to avail the benefit of above measures;

(c) when would the scheme commence and what would be the tentative financial outlay; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) No such proposal is under consideration of Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Handloom weaving is predominantly a household activity. Almost entire activities in the handloom sector are being done by the family members themselves and no labourers are engaged from outside. However, in order to sustain the employment of weavers in handloom Sector, Government of India is implementing five schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan such as (i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, (ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, (iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme,